

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 WARSAW 03676 030806Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 EB-08 /045 W

-----005484 030917Z /21

R 030723Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4830

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL POZNAN POUCH

AMCONSUL KRAKOW POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WARSAW 3676

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PL

SUBJ: MAY DAY 1978 IN WARSAW

1. ALTHOUGH INCLEMENT WEATHER THREATENED TO PUT A DAMPER ON THE ANNUAL MAY DAY FESTIVITIES IN WARSAW, RAIN DID NOT FALL UNTIL AFTER THE PARADE, THEREBY PRESERVING THE STREAK OF RAINLESS MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS WHICH DATES BACK TO THE EARLY DAYS OF THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC.

2. FIRST SECRETARY OF THE POLISH UNITED WORKERS' PARTY EDWARD GIEREK, FLANKED BY POLAND'S OTHER TOP LEADERS, DELIVERED THE MAY DAY SPEECH. IT WAS NOTABLY SHORT AND CONSISTED MOSTLY OF AN APPEAL TO PATRIOTISM. GIEREK MADE A PASSING REFERENCE TO THE NEUTRON "BOMB" WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A GENERAL CONDEMNATION
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 WARSAW 03676 030806Z

OF NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, BUT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION THE UNITED STATES. SIMILARLY, THE NUMEROUS PLACARDS AGAINST THE NEUTRON WEAPON WHICH BOBBED AMONG THE SIGNS PROMOTING PEACE, SECURITY, WORKING CLASS SOLIDARITY, AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE USSR DID NOT REFER TO THE UNITED STATES.

3. NEVERTHELESS, THE ANTI-NEUTRON "BOMB" THEME WAS AMONG THOSE

MORE PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN THE PARADE. AT ONE POINT, THE ANNOUNCER WHO BROADCAST THE PARADE PICKED UP HIS CUE FROM A CONCENTRATED CLUSTER OF ANTI-NEUTRON "BOMB" SIGNS AND SOUNDED THE THEME, EMPHASIZED IN THE RECENT POLISH MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE WEAPON, THAT THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN PEACE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT, FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT. THUS, THE ANNOUNCER SAID, "ALL OF WARSAW, ALL OF POLAND, JOIN IN SAYING 'NO' TO THE NEUTRON BOMB*" THERE WAS NOT MUCH CROWD REACTION (AS WAS TRUE OF MOST OF THE ANNOUNCER'S SLOGANEERING).

4. ACCORDING TO AN MFA OFFICIAL, PARTICIPATION IN THE PARADE WAS HELD TO BETWEEN 250,000 AND 300,000 PEOPLE IN ORDER TO CHOP AN HOUR OFF THE TRADITIONAL FOUR-HOUR RUNNING TIME. CONSIDERABLY FEWER PEOPLE WATCHED THE PARADE FROM THE SIDELINES. ALTHOUGH THE PREVAILING MOOD AMONG THE MARCHERS DID NOT SEEM TO BE DOWN-RIGHT GLUM. ONLY THE LEGIONS OF BOY AND GIRL SCOUTS WHO TROOPED BY THE REVIEWING STAND AT THE OUTSET OF THE PARADE, AND SCATTERED YOUTH GROUPS COMING BY LATER, WERE ABLE TO WHIP UP A SEMBLANCE OF ENTHUSIASM. AN ATTEMPT BY THE ANNOUNCER TO GENERATE APPLAUSE FOR THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP AS IT ASCENDED THE ROSTRUM FOUND AN ECHO ONLY IN THE REVERBERATION OF THE SOUND SYSTEM WHICH TRANSMITTED HIS OWN HANDCLAPS. A CORDON OF POLICE STATIONED JUST PAST THE TRIBUNE OF HONOR MADE SURE THAT THOSE WHO THOUGHT THEIR DUTY DONE ONCE THEY HAD FILED BY THE NATION'S LEADERS GOT BACK INTO THE LINE OF MARCH.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 WARSAW 03676 030806Z

5. COMMENT: ON THE WHOLE, MAY DAY 1978 IN WARSAW WAS A ROUTINE SHOW. NO SURPRISES WERE ANTICIPATED; NONE TOOK PLACE. THIS LATEST "MANIFESTATION OF THE UNITY OF WORKING PEOPLE IN POLAND" WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH -- AND WITHOUT EXCITEMENT. END COMMENT. SCHAUFELE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MAY DAY, HOLIDAYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WARSAW03676
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780188-0355
Format: TEL
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780595/aaaaddij.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5af698a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2798224
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAY DAY 1978 IN WARSAW
TAGS: PINT, PL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5af698a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014